



“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

EXERCISING THE RIGHT

Grandson Shoots Intruder Who Shot His Grandmother

The *Daily Mail* reported on February 14 about how the brave actions of a boy saved the lives of his family during an apartment break-in in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Police say two masked robbers forced their way into the apartment around 1 a.m., and one of the burglars, who was armed, fired at the boy's grandmother. One of the bullets hit her in the leg, but her 12-year-old grandson quickly responded, grabbing a loaded firearm and shooting back at the intruders.

The two burglars fled from the house after being fired on, and police who arrived on the scene discovered a wounded suspect a half-block from the grandmother's apartment. The wounded suspect was taken for treatment to a nearby medical facility, where he later succumbed to his gunshot wound.

The police issued a statement identifying the deceased suspect as 19-year-old Khalil Herring and stating they had evidence that links the deceased suspect to the burglary attempt of the apartment.

The wounded grandmother received medical treatment, is in good condition, and is expected to make a full recovery. Another relative who was in the home at the time of the shooting told the local ABC affiliate that he had no doubt that these violent intruders wouldn't have stopped after wounding the grandmother, and the grandson saved all of them from certain death. “He [the armed intruder who shot the grandmother] would have shot him too, he would've shot me too, he would've killed us all,” Randolph Bunn, who is the grandmother's son, told ABC11.

The *Daily Mail* reported that the grandmother's niece was shocked at what happened and complained about the high crime in the local community. Chiquita Coley asked, “Why would somebody come into her house and do this? It's got to stop.... I don't know what they're thinking around here in Goldsboro, but it's got to stop.” Police are still investigating and hope to soon arrest the other suspect. They confirmed that there won't

be charges against the grandson because it appears his actions were justified self-defense.

New Gun Control on the Horizon?

Writing at Reason.com in February, Jacob Sullum took his readers on a terrifying journey into the type of draconian gun control that some Democrats are hoping to implement under a Biden administration. Sullum did an in-depth review of legislation proposed by Democratic Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee entitled the Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act. The act is named after an immigrant exchange student who was killed in a school shooting, and establishes “a national database that is supposed to include every gun in the country, make it a felony to own a firearm or ammunition without a license from the Justice Department, ban magazines that hold more than 10 rounds and ‘ammunition that is 0.50 caliber or greater,’ and criminalize possession of a ‘military-style weapon’ without a special license. Violating the bill's provisions would be punishable by hefty fines and long minimum prison sentences, which Lee ordinarily claims to oppose.”

Sullum explains that the registration applies to all guns, even ones owned prior to the law's implementation, and would give gun owners three months to report the required details about their firearms, with noncompliance “punishable by a minimum fine of \$75,000, a minimum prison sentence of 15 years, or both.”

The law also requires prospective gun owners to be screened by a government-approved psychologist. This psychological screening will extend to even the spouse or former spouse of the applicant and “at least 2 other persons who are a member of the family of, or an associate of, the individual to further determine the state of the mental, emotional, and relational stability of the individual in relation to firearms.” The law requires annual renewal of licenses for firearms for any guns that have been owned for five years or less, and three-year renewals after that. Anyone who is caught not re-

newing the license would be subject to the same punishment as people who have never registered at all.

Sullum poked fun at how Congresswoman Lee has previously opposed minimum-length prison sentences on racial grounds because she complained that it unfairly targeted African-Americans but “now wants to transform millions of Americans into felons, threatening them with long prison terms for peaceful conduct that violates no one's rights.” Sullum also explains that the proposed gun-control framework is “completely impractical, since gun owners would be understandably reluctant to identify themselves and their firearms so they could be entered in a federal database and required to apply for licenses.... Since the Justice Department would not have the resources to go after millions of recalcitrant gun owners even if it knew who they were, the result would be random application of Lee's draconian penalties to the few who happened to attract the government's attention.” Based on recent events and the overreaction to the January 6 protest at the Capitol, it seems like a Democrat-controlled government would use these laws to criminally prosecute right-wingers who publicly dissent from their left-wing agenda. Sullum explained that even though this law is unlikely to pass, it shows signs of what might come in the future because “it reflects a broader mindset in the Democratic Party, which used to at least pay lip service to the Second Amendment but lately talks and acts as if it does not exist. After promising to respect the Second Amendment in 2004, 2008, and 2012, the Democrats erased the constitutional provision from their 2016 platform, although they did mention ‘the rights of responsible gun owners.’ The 2020 platform omitted even that phrase.” Sullum concluded his column by stating that “Democrats would be perfectly happy to expurgate the Bill of Rights if only the courts would let them.” This is not too reassuring, seeing as how appointments to the courts will be made by the Biden administration and confirmed by a Democrat-controlled Senate. ■

— PATRICK KREY